

EXTENDING THE CONSTRUCT VALIDITY OF A SOCIALIZED SCALE¹

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The construct validity of the Socialization (So) scale of the California Psychological Inventory was extended by confirming previously demonstrated findings on the discriminatory effectiveness of the scale, and by testing relationships between So scores and a number of indices pertinent either to the construct: socialization itself, or to some competing interpretative hypothesis. The scale was administered to 239 inmates of a training school for boys and to a total of 428 nondelinquent Ss from three different schools. From examination of a variety of relationships, the following results emerged.

1. Matching delinquents and nondelinquents in respect to race, age, and place of residence did not reduce the screening efficiency of the scale. As in earlier studies, the scale correctly identified a combined average of over 70% of the members of both groups.

2. "Good citizens" and "disciplinary problems" in high school differed significantly from each other and from unselected high school students.

3. Delinquent recidivists differed significantly from first offenders.

4. A low but statistically reliable correlation occurred between So scores and number of court contacts prior to commitment to training school.

5. Delinquent Negroes did not differ reliably from delinquent whites.

6. Academically retarded delinquents did not differ significantly from those characterized by appropriate age-grade placement.

7. Negroes from Chicago did not differ significantly from white Ss living elsewhere in the state of Illinois.

8. So scores did not correlate significantly with areal delinquency rate within the city of Chicago.

9. The correlation between So scores and IQ was negligible for delinquents but significantly positive for high school students.

10. The correlation between So scores and age was negligible for delinquents, but significantly negative for nondelinquents.

In every case, significant relationships occurred as one would expect to find them if the So scale measures socialization. With the two exceptions stated immediately above, relationships pertinent to various competing interpretations were not significant. In conjunction with previous findings on the validity of the So scale, these data rather strongly encourage further study of the measure and the trait it evidently represents. Studies concerning the factorial unity of the scale, its predictive utility, and its relationship to various antecedents seem most clearly indicated.

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¹ An extended report of this study may be obtained without charge from Donald R. Peterson, Psychology Department, University of Illinois, Urbana, Illinois, or for a fee from the American Documentation Institute. Order Document No. 5775, remitting \$1.25 for microfilm or \$1.25 for photocopies.

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